SI. No.	Year	Budget allocation (Rupees in Lakhs)
1.	2002-03	1,34,997.58
2.	2003-04	1,47,446.81
3.	2004-05	1,90,954.01

For the State of Nagaland, the budget allocation for various rural development schemes was Rs. 8,394.88 lakhs during 2002-03, Rs. 9,180.07 lakhs during 2003-04 and Rs. 10,232.18 lakhs during 2004-05.

(c) 10% of the total budget allocation of this Ministry is earmarked for the North Eastern States. Further, a Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources (NLCPR) exist for the North Eastern Region and the unspent balance of the 10% earmarked budget allocation goes to this NLCPR at the end of each financial year.

Request for banning import of onions

*389. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:

SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether an *Ad-hoc* Committee of Maharashtra Legislature on Onion had called on the Union Minister on November 7, 2003, to request for banning import and removing the ban on exports of onions and increase in handling subsidy for the perishable commodity on the lines of sugar and fixing a minimum support price for onion; and

(b) if so, the decisions since taken and the steps taken to implement the same?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH):.(a) Yes,Sir.

(b) Members of the *Ad-hoc* Committee of Maharashtra Legislature on Onion were informed by the then Commerce & Industry Minister that as per extant EXIM Policy, import and export of onion is free. However, export of onion is canalized through NAFED, other State Trading enterprises and authorized cooperative marketing institutions. Government is not providing any export subsidy for export of onions. Recently, onion has been removed

from the list of essential commodities in the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

Increase in bilateral trade with China

*390. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a 79 per cent growth in bilateral trade with China in 2004;

(b) if so, whether India has put forward any proposal or *vice-versa* for having a free trade agreement between the two countries; and

(c) how the bilateral talks between India and China help in improving trade between the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) As per DGCIS provisional data, the India-China trade registered . a growth of 47% during 2003-04 as against 2002-03.

(b) As per the Joint Statement released during the visit of Chinese Premier to India, it was agreed to appoint a Joint Task Force to study in detail the feasibility of, and the benefits that may derive from, an India-China Regional Trading Arrangement and give recommendations regarding its content.

(c) Bilateral talks is one of the measures for improving trade, as it helps in discussing and resolving the- problems faced by the exporters and importers of both countries.

Adverse effect of alert regarding Tsunami

†*391. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after devastating Tsunami waves, survivors in coastal areas showed patience while Central Government's Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Science and Technology flashed alert message again which led to panic among coastal habitants;

(b) if so, what were the reasons therefor; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.